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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

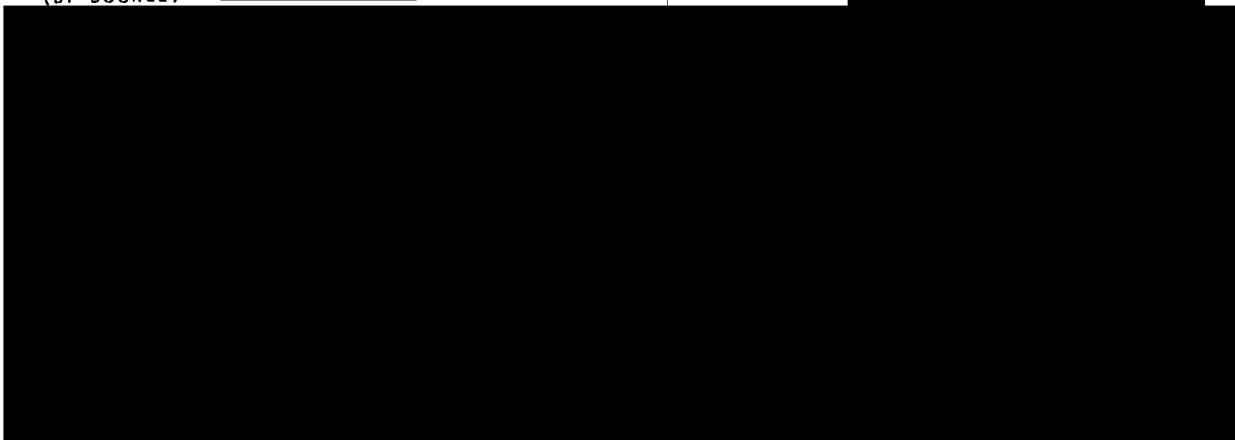
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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Petroleum Research/Organizational Set-up

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1. "The Ministry of the Petroleum and Coal Industries (MIPIC) is responsible to the Council of Ministers. Its activities enter the natural gas (methane) industry as well as coal and petroleum. While the normal function of a ministry is the complete operation of a particular industrial sector, MIPIC is a sort of stepchild in that the petroleum industry - all oilfields, pipelines, refineries, etc. - is operated independent of the Ministry by Sovrompetrol. Thus the petroleum section of the Ministry has no functions vital to production, but is left to such activities as political work among personnel, collection of statistics, operation of technical schools, etc. In the opinion of many people, it exists primarily to mask the fact that petroleum, the country's most valuable resource, is being exploited by Soviet imperialism. Within the framework of this semi-purposelessness operates the Institut de Cercetări si Proiectări (Institute of Research and Engineering Designs).
2. "The Ministry is headed by the Minister, an old-time Party member, a former laboratory assistant at the Româno-Americana refinery. Since he is not a technical specialist, he has two executive assistants, one heading up activities in petroleum, the other, coal. The assistant in charge of petroleum was Iancu.
3. "The Institute, although reorganized on an average of more than once a year since around 1948 when it began as the Institute of Chemistry and Technology with a broad field of chemical and mineral problems, had settled down by 1951 to two divisions: Research and Engineering Designs. The Director, Iordan Marcovici (formerly of Astra Româna) conducted actively both the technical and administrative work.
4. "The Engineering Design section, headed by a well-respected engineer named Heiman, had a staff of 20-30 architects and engineers, who prepared construction plans for facilities within the jurisdiction of the Ministry, such as coal mine buildings, housing units for petroleum workers, research equipment, etc. It was housed at the Institute's central offices at 23 Calea Grivitei.

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